

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



June 1, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**FROM:** LS01/ William A. Bierbower

**SUBJECT:** Blanket approval to Attend a Pre-launch Reception Co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:


NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a pre-launch reception co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne at the Doubletree Hotel Cocoa Beach, Florida, on or about Thursday, June 7, 2007. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-117, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 150 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately \$20 per person and a cash bar will be available. The reception is fully funded by contributions from the contractors with MSFC Office of Protocol providing oversight and management of the event. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its activities. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or

guests. NASA employees who feel that their duties may in some way substantially affect ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, or Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne are not covered in this determination and should contact Devinti M. Williams, at (256) 544-0012, to seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding their participation in this event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.A. Bierbower", written over a light gray rectangular background.

William A. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel